

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cable bolt comprising a tendon composed of a plurality of strands, the tendon[s] having a plurality of bulbous portions, wherein all the strands in each bulbous portion are spaced apart from one another substantially about the periphery of each bulbous portion, and a plurality of rigid elements, wherein the bulbous portions house the rigid elements, such that there is minimal clearance between an outermost surface of the rigid element and a broadest part of a cavity of the bulbous portion.
2. (Original) The cable bolt according to claim 1, characterised in that a bulb diameter of the bulbous portions varies along the length of the cable bolt.
3. (Currently Amended) The cable bolt according to claim 1 [or claim 2], in that a bulb frequency of the bulbous portions varies along the length of the cable bolt.
4. (Currently Amended) The cable bolt according to claim 1, [any one of the preceding claims,] characterised in that the rigid element is a solid sphere.
5. (Currently Amended) The cable bolt according to claim 1, [any one of the preceding claims,] characterised in that the minimal clearance is about 0.2 mm (0.008 inches) to about 3 mm (0.118 inches).
6. (Currently Amended) The cable bolt according to claim 1, [any one of the preceding claims,] characterised in that the cable bolt is provided with a breather tube disposed adjacent to, and along the length of, the cable bolt, wherein the breather tube is adapted for egress of air out of a borehole when grout is pumped into the borehole.
7. (Original) The cable bolt according to claim 6, characterised in that the breather tube is fastened to the cable bolt along its length with fastening means.

8. (Currently Amended) The cable bolt according to claim 1, [any one of the preceding claims,] characterised in that at least the [innermost] bulbous portions inserted innermost into a borehole are encased in resin.

9. (Original) The cable bolt according to claim 8, characterised in that a resin dam is provided adjacent to the encased innermost bulbous portions.

10. (Original) The cable bolt according to claim 9, characterised in that the resin dam comprises a larger bulbous portion encased in silicon and shrinkwrapped in a polyethylene plastics material.

11. (Original) A cable bolt when used to stabilise a rock surface against collapse in hard rock mining, the cable bolt comprising a tendon composed of a plurality of strands, the tendons having a plurality of bulbous portions, wherein all the strands in each bulbous portion are spaced apart from one another substantially about the periphery of each bulbous portion, and a plurality of rigid elements, wherein the bulbous portions house the rigid elements.

12. (Original) A cable bolt when used to stabilize a coal face against collapse in coal mining, the cable bolt comprising a tendon composed of a plurality of strands, the tendons having a plurality of bulbous portions, wherein all the strands in each bulbous portion are spaced apart from one another substantially about the periphery of each bulbous portion, and a plurality of rigid elements, wherein the bulbous portions house the rigid elements.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a cable bolt including a tendon composed of a plurality of strands, the tendon having a plurality of pre-formed bulbous portions, wherein all the strands in each bulbous portion are spaced apart from one another substantially about the periphery of each bulbous portion forming a cavity [according to any one of the preceding claims], the method comprising the steps of:

- a) prising apart two of the strands of each [a] pre-formed bulbous portion;
- b) inserting a [the] rigid element into the cavity of the pre-formed bulbous portion; and

- c) releasing the prised apart strands such that an inherent tension in the prised apart strands encourages the strands to return to the original configuration of the pre-formed bulbous portion.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 13, characterised in that the strands are prised apart in step a) by inserting a wedge member into the cavity of the pre-formed bulbous portion, and retraction of the wedge member from the cavity effects release of the prised apart strands in step c).

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13[or claim 14], characterised in that the rigid element is retained in the cavity by a rod member until the prised apart strands are released and return to the original configuration in the pre-formed bulbous portion.

16. A cable bolt comprising a tendon composed of a plurality of strands, the tendons having a plurality of pre-formed bulbous portions, wherein all the strands in each pre-formed bulbous portion are spaced apart from one another substantially around the periphery of each pre-formed bulbous portion, and a plurality of rigid elements, wherein the rigid elements are inserted into the pre-formed bulbous portion and housed therein.

17. (New) A method of forming a cable bolt including a tendon composed of a plurality of strands, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) forming a plurality of bulbous portions within the strands of the tendon, with each bulbous portion including a cavity therein;
- b) prising apart two of the strands of each of the plurality of bulbous portions;
- c) inserting a rigid element into the cavity of each bulbous portion; and
- d) releasing the prised apart strands such that an inherent tension in the prised apart strands encourages the strands to return to the original configuration of the bulbous

portion, such that each rigid element remains housed within the cavity of each of the plurality of bulbous portions.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of forming each bulbous portion comprises spacing apart all the tendon strands from one another substantially about the periphery of the bulbous portion.
19. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of encasing in resin one or more bulbous portions at an end of the cable bolt to be inserted first into a borehole.